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# WASHINGTON

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1800

THE CITY OF

# WASHINGTON

## PHOTOGRAPHS IN BLACK

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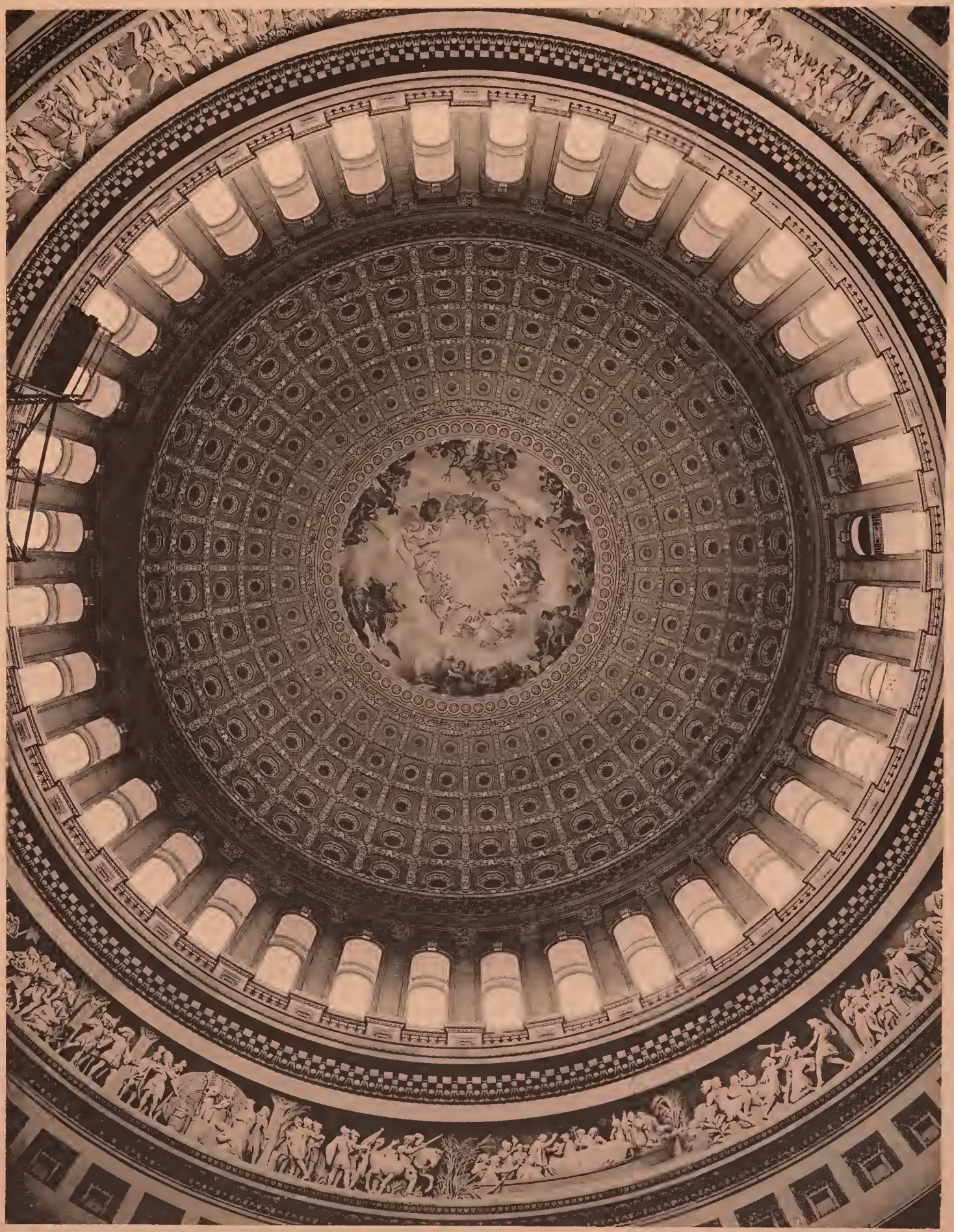
WEST FRONT OF CAPITOL.

DOME AND EAST PORTICO OF CAPITOL

THE CAPITOL—EAST FRONT.



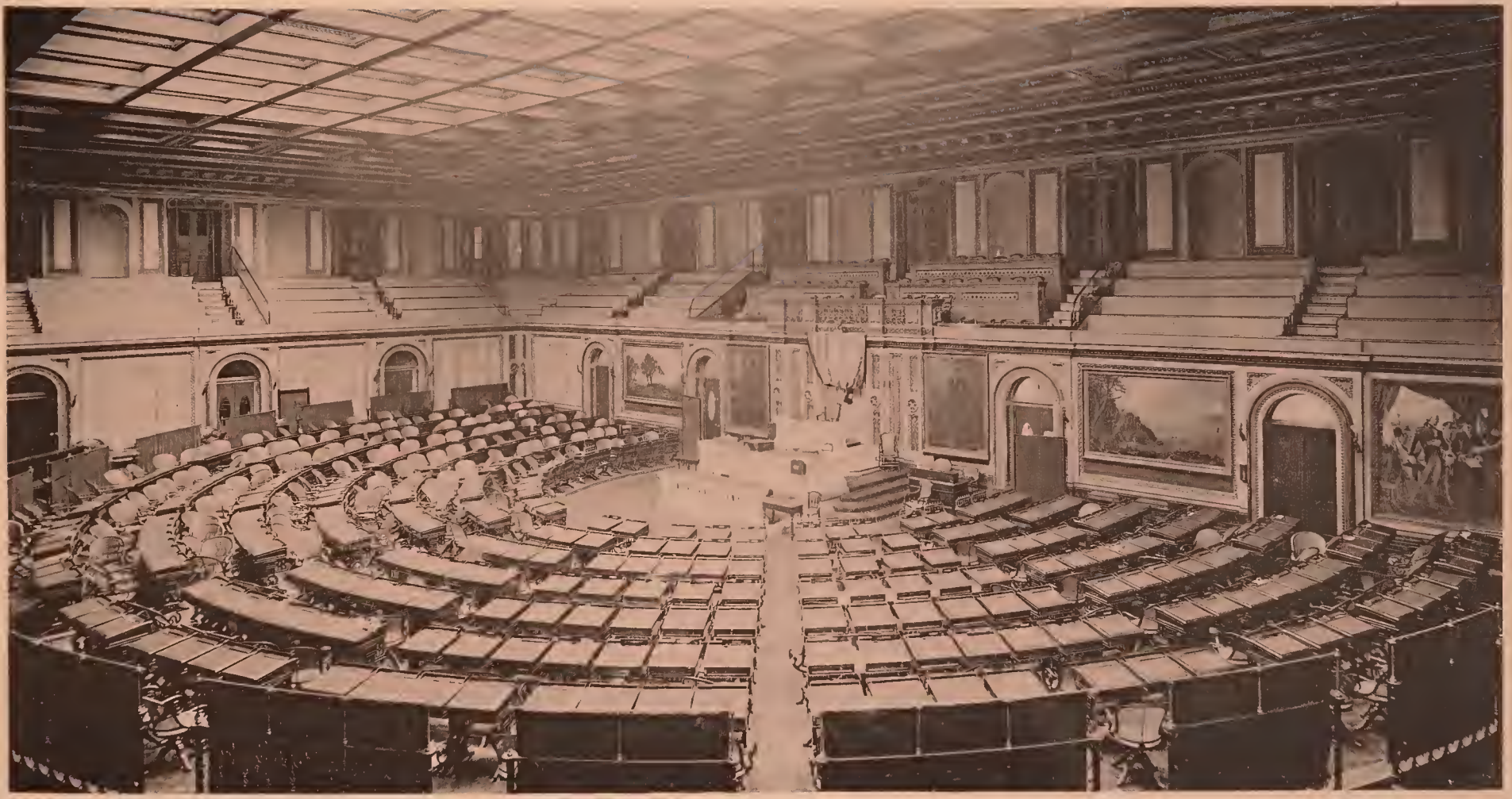
CANOPY OF THE CAPITOL DOME.

THE CAPITOL—West Front and Terrace.

GROUPS : CIVILIZATION AND DISCOVERY OF AMERICA—East Portico of Capitol.

THE CAPITOL—WEST FRONT.

CAPITOL—Senate Chamber.



CAPITOL—Hall of House of Representatives.

SUPREME COURT ROOM—Capitol.

ROGERS' BRONZE DOOR.

SENATE MARBLE ROOM

BARTHOLDI FOUNTAIN—Botanical Gardens.

GARFIELD STATUE AND WEST FRONT OF CAPITOL.

PEACE MONUMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE.

WHITE HOUSE—Green Room.

WHITE HOUSE—Blue Room.

THE WHITE HOUSE CONSERVATORY.

THE WHITE HOUSE, TREASURY AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE,

From the War, State and Navy Departments.

CORCORAN ART GALLERY.

U. S. WAR, STATE AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS.

DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION ROOM—State Department.

THE TREASURY.

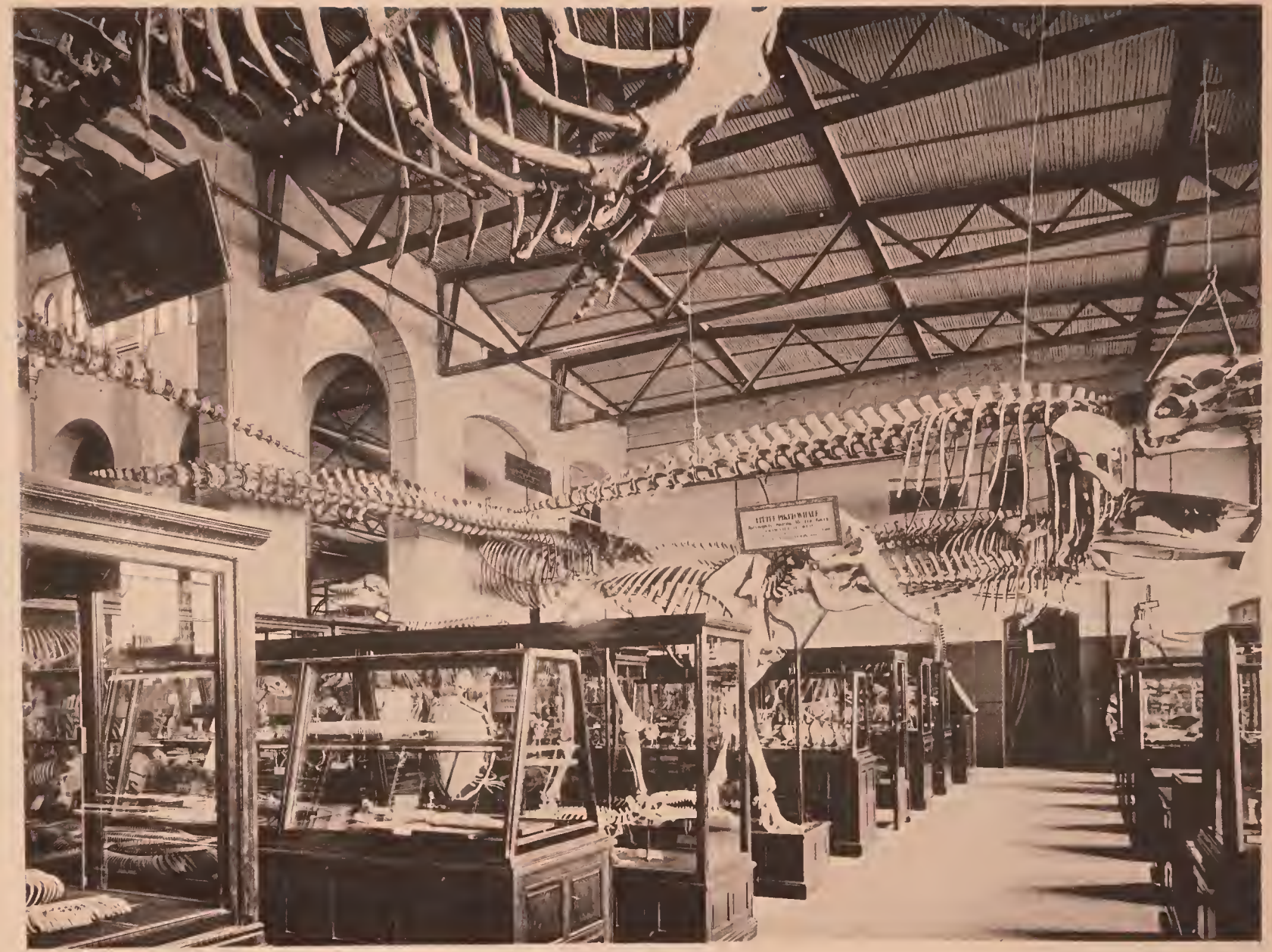
GENERAL POST OFFICE.

U. S. PATENT OFFICE.

U. S. PENSION BUREAU.

COURT OF PENSION BUREAU.

NATIONAL MUSEUM.



INTERIOR—NATIONAL MUSEUM.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT AND CONSERVATORY.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE.

THE AMERICAN BISON—Smithsonian Institute.

GROUNDS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE.

EMANCIPATION STATUE—Lincoln Park.

OLD FORD'S THEATRE, in Tenth Street, where President Lincoln was shot.

House No 516 - 10th Street, N. W., in which PRESIDENT LINCOLN died April 15th 1865.

THE WASHINGTON LOAN AND TRUST CO. AND F STREET, from the Steps of the Patent Office.

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND MARTIN LUTHER MONUMENT.

COURT HOUSE AND LINCOLN COLUMN.

NATIONAL THEATRE.

NATIONAL BANK OF WASHINGTON. LOUISIANA AVENUE CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK.

ADMIRAL FARRAGUT STATUE.

RESIDENCE OF HON. JAS. G. BLAINE—Lafayette Square.

LAFAYETTE STATUE.

BRITISH LEGATION.

GENERAL McPHERSON STATUE

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT, corner Connecticut Ave. and N Street, N. W.

EBBITT HOUSE.

GENERAL JACKSON STATUE—Lafayette Square.

THE SHOREHAM, corner 15th and H Streets.

GENERAL THOMAS STATUE.

RESIDENCE OF JOHN HAY, corner of 16th and H Streets.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STATUE.

U. S. S. BLAKE—Navy Yard.

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE.

SCOTT BUILDING—U. S. Soldiers' Home.

GATEWAY.

SOLDIERS' GRAVES,

National Military Cemetery.

GENERAL SHERIDAN MONUMENT Mt. Arlington Cemetery.

WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

STATUE OF GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT—Soldiers' Home.

GEN. LOGAN TOMB AND AMPHITHEATRE—National Military Cemetery.

OLD CHRIST CHURCH, Alexandria, Va.

MT. ARLINGTON—Late Residence of General Robert E. Lee.

UNLIKE most of the great American cities, which have grown to enormous proportions by agricultural, industrial and commercial enterprises, the old site on the Potomac and Tiber rivers, which Francis Pope bought of the Indians in 1663 and called Rome, owes its development to political causes.

During the struggle for independence our national government had to move from town to town to avoid the British armies. But as soon as the eagle felt its wings, it looked for a nest of its own.

The first congress, which assembled in New York on March 7th, 1789, immediately agitated the question of a permanent seat of the government. New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia and Maryland were particularly eager in contending for the honor and offered free sites and other inducements. After mature consideration, Congress on June 28th of the same year passed a bill locating the National Capitol at Pope's homestead and the adjoining hamlets, Funkstown or Hamburg, (a german settlement at what is to-day Observatory Hill), and Carrollsville (on Arsenal Point). A territory of ten square miles around the city, called the District of Columbia, was placed under the direct administration of the Congress, so as to make it perfectly independent from sectional influences and state politics.

The plan of the City of Washington was drawn by Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant and laid out by Surveyor Andrew Ellicott. L'Enfant was a French engineer, who had come here from Paris in 1777 and served in the Continental army with great distinction. In mapping out the city he followed Le Notre's plan of Versailles, making Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues reproductions of the Avenue de Sceaux and de St. Cloud, diverging from the *Cour Royale* of the old residence of the French kings. Originally there were thirteen avenues, named after the states constituting the Union at the time of the foundation of the Capitol; now there are twenty-one radiating from principal centres and connecting different parts of the city.

On October 13th, 1792, the corner stone of the President's, generally called the White House, was laid, and, on September 18th, 1793, that of the Capitol. When the latter was first occupied by Congress in November 1800, but one wing had been erected. The two buildings of white sand-stone stood out shining objects in dismal contrast to the semi-wilderness around and between them.

Pennsylvania, the principal avenue, led to the White House yet on paper. The greater part of the distance was occupied by a deep morass covered with elder bushes. The roads in every direction wore the character of a new settlement with but isolated wooden habitations. John Adams was President then. Coming from the agreeable social life in Philadelphia, the officials and their ladies, Mrs. Adams in lead, gave free vent to their disgust with the "Wilderness City" or derided it as "Washington's City on the Potomac," or called it, as a facetious Frenchman did, "the city of magnificent distances."

But neither satire, nor opposition, nor perversity could prevent the city from growing. President Jefferson did much to further its prosperity by procuring grants of money for carrying on the public buildings and encouraging improvements. He caused Pennsylvania Avenue to be opened and planted with trees. Large expenditures of public money on National works and many valuable improvements were also made under President Monroe. But the most important measures to lift Washington out of the "mud," as they called it, were taken in recent times by Alexander R. Shepherd, Governor Henry D. Cooke and other progressive citizens. In 1871 they secured the authority to make the necessary improvements. The government raised money by local taxation and the sale of District bonds, and within the ten following years twenty-five million of dollars were spent and thousands of laborers employed in making Washington what it is to-day, one of the most beautiful cities of the continent.

The cornerstone of the old *Capitol*, which forms the centre of the present building, was laid by General Washington on September 18th, 1794. The building was burnt by the British in 1814, but rebuilt under Benjamin Henry Latrobe's, and after his resignation, Charles Bullfinch's supervision during the years 1815-27. The white marble wings were added 1851-67. The northern wing with the famous bronze door by Randolph Rogers, contains the Senate Room, Marble Reception Room and Committee Rooms for the Senate and the southern wing similar accommodations for the House of Representatives.

The *Capitol* stands on the western brow of Capitol Hill. It is 751 feet long and 324 feet wide and covers about four acres. The dome, 307½ feet high and 135½ feet in diameter, is crowned by a lantern surrounded by a peristyle and crowned by Crawford's bronze Statue of Liberty; nearly four thousand tons of iron constitute its frame of ribs. The dome over-arches the rotunda, which is adorned by eight large historical paintings, historic busts and bas-reliefs. At its extreme height a canopy is suspended with Brumidi's stucco-painting "The Apotheosis of Washington." The *National Statuary Hall*, formerly occupied by the House of Representatives is a perfect gem of Greek architecture and is ultimately to contain statues of two of the most illustrious men of each state of the Union.

The *Library of Congress*, for which a new building is now being erected, contains 640,000 volumes.

The buildings, in which the work of governing our country is performed, are representative of the nation's greatness. Only the dwelling of the President, in accordance with our democratic institutions. is rather plain.

The *Executive Mansion* or *White House*, as it is commonly called, was begun in 1792 under the young Irish architect James Hoban, who closely copied the plan of the palace of the Duke of Leinster in Dublin, and completed it in 1800. On the first floor of the house are the state-rooms and on the second the President's private apartments, the cabinet room, library and offices.

The *State, War* and *Navy Departments* occupy an immense quadrangular granite building, covering four and a half acres, which was erected by A. B. Mullet in 1871-1888 at a cost of about eleven million of dollars.

The buildings of the *Treasury,* the *Interior Department,* which also contains the offices and collections of the *Patent Office,* the *Post Office, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Department of Agriculture,* and *Pension Office* are imposing structures showing a tasteful blending of the massive ancient and the more elegant renaissance and modern architectural combinations.

The *Smithsonian Institution* contains large and valuable anthropological, botanical, geological and zoological and the *Army Medical Museum* anatomical, medical, microscospical and surgical collections. The *Corcoran Art Gallery* enshrines many valuable paintings and works of art by old and modern masters.

The *Bartholdi Fountain* stands in the Botanical Garden, near the foot of Capitol Hill, and from here leads a chain ornamental garden and park through the grounds of the Smithsonian Institute and Agricultural Department up to the slight elevation near the banks of the Potomac, on which stands what is now the highest monumental structure in the world, the *Washington Monument.* It is an obelisk of solid granite 555 feet high, and 55 feet square at its base. An elevator lands the visitor at the top, and here an unequaled view presents itself of the city and outlying points of interest for tens of miles.

On F Street is the *Trust Building,* the new *Scott Building,* &c.

The *United States Navy Yard* covers 27 acres of ground and has a cannon foundry, large barracks and workshops and an interesting collection of trophies.

The nation's gratitude towards its heroes and great statesmen found a vivid expression by a large number of monuments which adorn the capitol.

Among the other remarkable monuments are that of *General Jackson,* (particularly remarkable on account of the balancing of the horse on its hind legs, a position successfully given to but two other monuments of a similar size, (General Bolivar and Peter the Great,) *General Scott, General Thomas, Admiral Farragut,* the *Presidents Lincoln* and *Garfield,* the *Marquis of Lafayette, Benjamin Franklin,* the *Peace* or *Naval Monument.*

The *Cemeteries* also contain a large number of monuments. The most interesting places of rest for the departed are the *Congressional Cemetery, Glenwood, National Military,* (adjoining the Soldiers' Home,) *Mount Arlington,* (Gen. Sheridan Monument,) and *Oak Hill Cemetery.*

*Christ Church,* in Alexandria, contains the pews of General Washington, No. 59, and General Lee, No. 46.

By social gayeties and political possibilities, Washington attracts a large number of visitors from all parts of the country, many of whom come to stay. As a natural result, the number of elegant private residences and apartment houses receives constant addition, and the time is not distant, when the country's capitol will be one of the great and cosmopolitan cities of the world.

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